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STATEMENT OF BASIS
NORANDA MINING, INCORPORATED

ONTARIO PROJECT

SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

PERMIT NUMBER: UT-0022403

Facility: Silver, Lead and Zinc Mine and Mill

Location: Keetley Station, Utah

Receiving Stream: Drain Tunnel Creek, a tributary to the Provo River.

Stream Classification: 3A, 4

The Ontario Project consists of a silver, lead, and zinc mine and mill complex capable of producing and processing 750 tons per day of ore. This operation is currently inactive and is projected to remain so for several years. The discharge is mine drainage from underground operations. This permit is being written for this facility based on its current inactive status. This permit will cover exploration activity and will require that the limitations be re-evaluated when this operation resumes active production.

The new permit will have an expiration date beyond July 1, 1984, and must address Best Available Technology (BAT). There will be no national effluent guidelines developed for inactive metal mines. BAT will, therefore, be based on Best Professional Judgment (BPJ).

A review of the limitations contained in the previous permit indicates that these limits are more stringent than BPT for active metal mines. Evaluations of BAT for inactive mines need to recognize the site specific aspects of these facilities and will require case-by-case evaluations of the available options. Given the nature of the Ontario Project and the costs associated with additional treatment options for this facility, it is my Best Professional Judgment that the existing limitations are consistent with BAT for inactive metal mine drainage. The existing limitations will ensure the efficient operation of the existing lime precipitation treatment system.

The permittee will be required to notify EPA and the State of Utah prior to the resumption of active operations. Upon notice of active operations, the permit issuing authority will review the permit in the context of BAT for active metal mine drainage and current State standards and will modify the permit, as necessary.

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Even though there are no point source discharges by Noranda Mining, Inc. (Park City Ventures) into Silver Creek, data indicates that Total Lead and Mercury are exceeding stream standards. Monitoring of Silver Creek and the diversion ditch near the tailings pond is required by the State. In order to minimize the impact on Silver Creek, the company shall be required to comply with Best Management Practices when they are implemented for the Mountainlands 208 planning area.

Robert E. Walline Chemical Engineer EPA, Denver, Colorado July 8, 1981

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